IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yunping Li and Kathleen Morgan

Application No.: 10/620,317

Filing Date: July 15, 2003

Title: METHODS FOR DELAYING OR INDUCING LABOR

Art Unit: 1614

Examiner: Spivack, P.

Docket No.: BBRI-2008US01

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with The United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope Addressed to Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on 2/28/05

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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Election of Species Requirement mailed from the Patent Office on September 27, 2004. A petition for a four-month extension is provided.

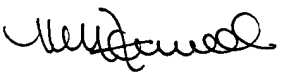
Applicant has been asked to elect a single disclosed specie in each of 6 categories as specified by the Patent Office: 1) A compound that inhibits kinase activity to delay preterm uterine contractions; 2) a compound that inhibits the binding of calmodulin to caldesmon to delay preterm uterine contractions; 3) a compound that activates a phosphatase enzyme to delay preterm uterine contractions; 4) a compound that activates kinase activity for inducing uterine contractions; 5) a compound that activates the binding of calmodulin to caldesmon for inducing uterine contractions; and 6) a compound that inhibits a phosphatase enzyme for inducing uterine contractions.

A disclosed species of a compound that inhibits kinase activity to delay preterm uterine contractions as recited in 1) above is U0126. A species of a compound that inhibits the binding of calmodulin to caldesmon to delay preterm uterine contractions as recited in 2) above is the calmodulin (CaM) antagonist calmidazolium. A species of a compound that activates the binding of calmodulin to caldesmon for inducing uterine contractions as recited in 5) above is a phorbol ester. A species of a compound that inhibits a phosphatase enzyme for inducing uterine contractions as recited in 6) above is okadaic acid.

Species of compounds that activate a phosphatase enzyme to delay preterm uterine contractions as recited in 3) above and species of compounds that activate kinase activity for inducing uterine contractions as recited in 4) above are unknown. One of skill in the art would obtain a compound as recited in 3) above by identifying an ERK phosphatase and then screening the phosphatase in an assay for activators of its activity. One of skill in the art would obtain a compound as recited in 4) above by screening a myosin LC20 kinase in as assay for activators of its activity.

Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 500282.

Respectfully submitted,



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